

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /084 W
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R 081159Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5511

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, IR, IZ
SUBJ: KURDISH UNREST AND IRAQI-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 138366, B. TEHRAN 5345

1. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED THESE SUBJECTS WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIA AND AFRICA SANANDAJI JUNE 7. SANANDAJI VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT MOSCOW IS AT PRESENT BACKING KURDISH REBELLION, OR AT LEAST THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THIS IS SO. IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, IT COULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN PUSHING IRAQIS TO MAKE AN OPEN BREAK WITH SOVIETS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT HAD COME TO THAT YET, BUT HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO HOPE IT MIGHT.

2. WITHOUT BEING ANY MORE SPECIFIC ON SOURCES, SANANDAJI SPOKE GENERALLY OF CURRENT IRAQI UNHAPPINESS WITH THE SOVIETS. FOR ONE THING, MILITARY ARE UNHAPPY WITH SOVIET WEAPONRY

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AS COMPARED TO WESTERN. HE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE ACCIDENTS WITH SOVIET PLANES RECENTLY, THOUGH HE DID NOT TIE THIS IN ANY WAY TO RECENT VISIT OF IRAQI AIR FORCE COMMANDER HERE (REF A), WHICH HE TERMED PROBABLY A PROTOCOL VISIT ONLY. BESIDES, IRAQIS MUST BE CONSIDERABLY UPSET AFTER EVENTS OF AFGHANISTAN, AND THEY KNOW THEY NEED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND MONEY. ALL THIS MIGHT ADD UP TO A BREAK EVENTUALLY.

3. SANANDAJI EXPRESSED COMPLETE DISBELIEF IN REPORT THAT MAINLAND CHINESE MAY BE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO TALABANI KURDS (REF B). HE THOUGH THAT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. HE SAID CHINESE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL FOR PAST TEN YEARS NOT TO INTERVENE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD IN SUCH AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT: WE PASS ON THESE COMMENTS AS PART OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH IRANIANS. REPORT OF CHINESE ASSISTANCE TO TALABANI KURDS, WHICH CAME TO US FROM BARZANI REPORTER, COULD BE COMPLETE RED HERRING, BUT WE LEAVE IT TO WASHINGTON TO EVALUATE. BY SAME TOKEN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY EVIDENCE AVAILABLE OF SOVIET BACKING FOR KURDISH REBELS, SINCE SANANDAJI WAS SO VAGUE ABOUT SOURCES. FYI: WE NOTE THAT LAST PARA OF BAGHDAD'S 1176 (JUST RECEIVED) PROVIDES AT LEAST PARTIAL COMMENT FROM USINT ON THIS QUESTION.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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